

THE NEW ZEALAND BRAVERY MEDAL (N.Z.B.M.)

Rodney James (Rod) KHAN

Date of action: 3 September 2021

Date of award: 6 December 2024

Citation

Mid-afternoon on 3 September 2021, a man, who had been under intense Police surveillance, entered a supermarket in New Lynn, Auckland and acquired a large kitchen knife, which he used to indiscriminately attack people across several aisles of the store. Within minutes, the offender caused significant injuries to five individuals and attempted to attack members of the public and staff who had barricaded themselves in a storeroom, before being fatally shot by Police officers.

Mr Rod Khan was present in the supermarket at the time of the attack. He heard screaming and saw a person run past with an injury. Mr Khan saw the offender stabbing a woman who was on the ground. Mr Khan ran towards the offender and threw tins of tuna at him to distract him. Other shoppers joined Mr Khan in attempting to distract the offender away from the woman.

As Mr Khan approached, the offender suddenly turned and lunged at him with the knife. Mr Khan retreated, tripping over a supermarket trolley, dislocating his shoulder but avoiding being stabbed. The offender moved away and other shoppers continued to try to distract him. Mr Khan left the supermarket, assisted by his wife, and received medical treatment for his injury.